

Ryan Williams
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House of Representatives State of Tennessee

NASHVILLE



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May 3, 2019

Federal Election Commission
Office of Complaints Examination & Legal Administration
Attn: Kathryn Ross, Paralegal
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463

Re: MUR 7594

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to provide an initial formal response on behalf of the Tennessee House Republican Caucus, Legislative Plaza, Nashville, TN 37243 ("the Caucus") to a Federal Election Commission (FEC) letter dated April 18, 2019 and referenced as MUR 7594. Said letter references a complaint alleging the Caucus to have violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971. More specific, complainant Alexander Austin of Parker, Colorado alleges the Caucus violated federal election laws by accepting a \$1,000.00 donation from "a foreign national," to wit: Enbridge (U.S.) Inc. Political Action Committee (Enbridge-DCP PAC).

Complainant incorrectly believes that contributions from Enbridge (U.S.) Inc. PAC (Enbridge-DCP PAC) are illegal because its parent company, Enbridge, Inc., is based in Calgary, Canada, and therefore the PAC "acts as an agent of foreign interests." Enbridge (U.S.) Inc. PAC (Enbridge-DCP PAC) is a Political Action Committee duly organized, registered and qualified with the FEC (FEC Lobbyist/Registrant PAC ID C00429662). Enbridge (U.S.) Inc. is a Delaware corporation (which complainant himself acknowledges) and a wholly owned subsidiary of

Enbridge Inc. Enbridge (U.S.) Inc.'s principal place of business is located in Houston, Texas, and, through its subsidiaries, has approximately 3,500 employees in the United States across 41 states.

As such, the contribution received by the Caucus from Enbridge-DCP PAC is entirely legal and appropriate. Complainant is mistaken in his belief that Enbridge (U.S.) Inc. or its PAC are acting on behalf of a foreign national for the purposes of federal campaign laws. Enbridge (U.S.) Inc. is no more a foreign national than are Nissan and Samsung (both of which duly incorporated and operating in the U.S.) or Anheuser-Busch and General Electric (both of which founded in the U.S. but now owned by foreign corporations).

If you should need any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,

Ryan Williams
State Representative

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GENERAL COUNSEL